

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 09352 131910Z

63

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 H-01 L-02 /013 W

----- 056943

R 131700Z DEC 74

FM AMEMGASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6866

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 9352

FOL TEL RECEIVED FROM RECIFE 12 DEC 74 SENT ACTION BRASILIA  
BEING RPTD FOR YOUR ACTION.

(THIS TELEGRAM WAS DELAYED DUE TO EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS BETWEEN RECIFE  
AND BRASILIA.)

QUOTE

RECIFE 247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS BR

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY DETENTION OF AMCIT DAVID BLACKBURN

1. IT CAME TO MY ATTENTION TODAY (DEC 10), THAT AMCIT DAVID  
BLACKBURN WAS DETAINED BY FOURTH ARMY AUTHORITIES ON SUNDAY, DEC 8,  
BLACKBURN, A DISCIPLES OF CHRIST MISSIONARY WHO HAS BEEN ATTACHED  
TO DOM HELDER CAMARA'S OPERACAO ESPERANCA FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS,  
WAS APPREHENDED AFTER HE HAD TAKEN SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE FOURTH  
ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN DOWNTOWN RECIFE.

2. AFTER TWO HOURS OF QUESTIONING DURING WHICH BLACBURN'S  
ASSOCIATION WITH DOM HELDER, FRED MORRIS, AND OTHERS IN THE  
MISSIONARY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FIELD WAS ESTABLISHED, HE WAS  
RELEASED WITH A GENTLE APOLOGY THAT THE AGENTS HOPED HE UNDERSTOOD  
THAT HE HAD TAKEN A PICTURE OF A MILITARY INSTALLATION WHICH IS  
ILLEGAL IN BRAZIL AND THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY HAD TO  
QUESTION HIM. THEY CONFISCATED BLACKBURN'S FILM WHICH CONTAINED  
PHOTOS OF SUDENE, CERTAIN FOREIGN-FINANCED FACTORIS, AND SEVERAL  
SLUMS AROUND RECIFE.

3. BLACKBURN, WHO WAS DETAINED ALONG WITH HIS FIANCEE, SAID THAT  
AGENTS WERE DISPATCHED TO HIS APARTMENT WHILE HE WAS BEING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 09352 131910Z

QUESTIONED TO VERIFY THAT HE IN FACT RESIDED WHERE HE HAD

INDICATED. THEY ALSO CHECKED BY THE HOUSE IN WHICH HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN LIVE IN NEARBY OLINDA.

4. BLACKBURN TOLD ME THAT HIS INTERROGATORS WERE POLITE AND COURTEOUS DURING THE PERIOD OF DETENTION, HE WAS NOT RPT NOT SUBJECTED TO ANY PHYSICAL DURESS.

5. BLACKBURN'S THREE YEAR CONTRACT WITH OPERACAO ESPERANCA EXPIRED LAST MONTH AND HE PLANS TO RETURN ON DEC 15 TO THE U.S. TO CONSULT WITH HIS CHURCH SUPERIORS ABOUT COMING BACK TO RECIFE TO WORK IN ANOTHER SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

6. COMMENT: BLACKBURN SEEMED PROFOUNDLY EMBARRASSED BY WHAT HE HAD DONE AND BELIEVES THAT THE AUTHORITIES ACTED WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS IN QUESTIONING HIM. HE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS ACTIONS MAY HAVE JEOPARDIZED HIS PLANS TO RETURN AND WORK IN BRAZIL.

BROWN  
UNQUOTE  
JOHNSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BRASIL09352  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740363-0542  
**From:** BRASILIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741238/aaaabgfm.tel  
**Line Count:** 80  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SCS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TEMPORARY DETENTION OF AMCIT DAVID BLACKBURN  
**TAGS:** PINS, BR, US, (BLACKBURN, DAVID)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005